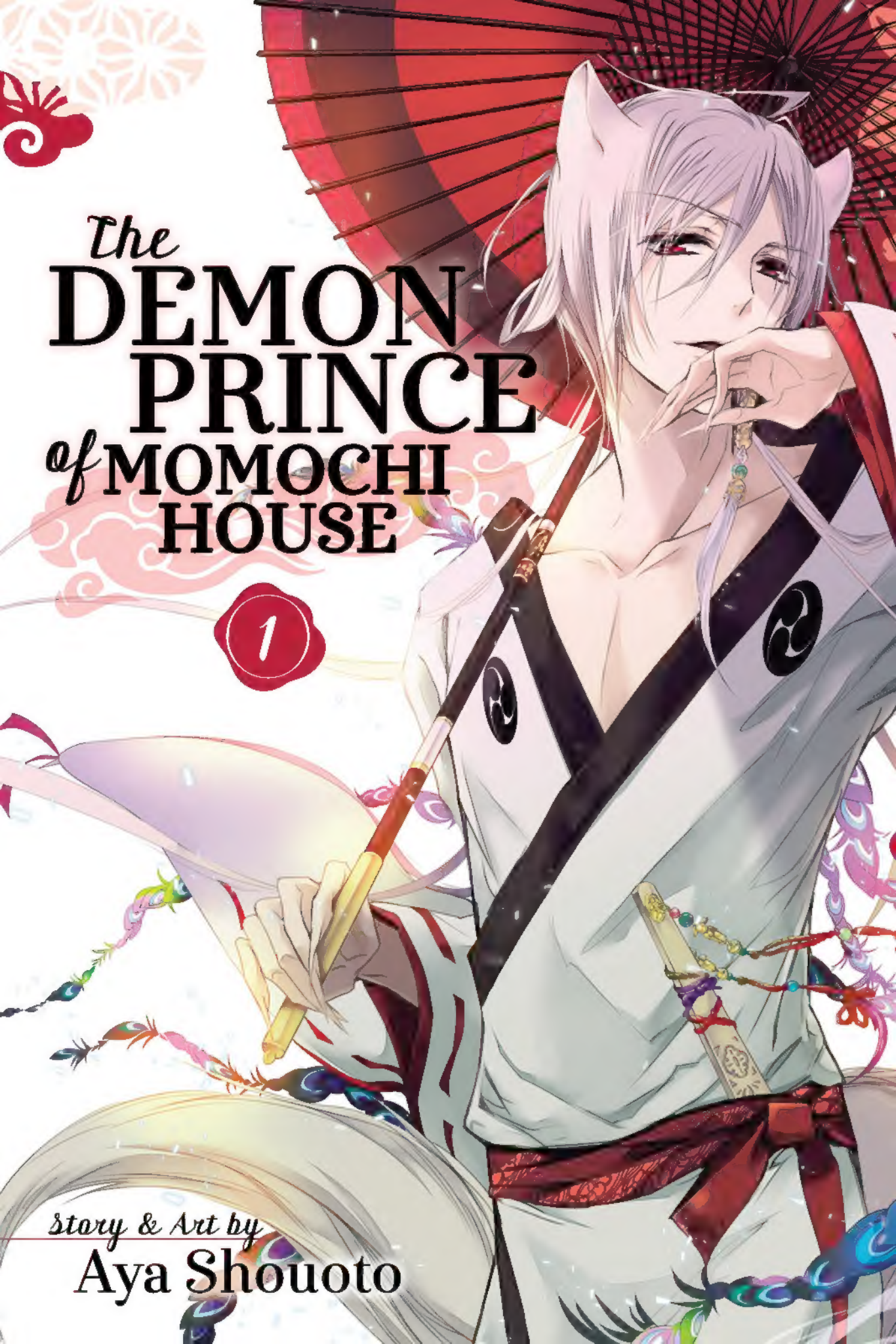

The
DEMON
PRINCE
of MOMOCHI
HOUSE
1
Story & Art by
Aya Shouoto

CHAPTER
1
YOU MUSTN'T...
...LOOK AT ME.

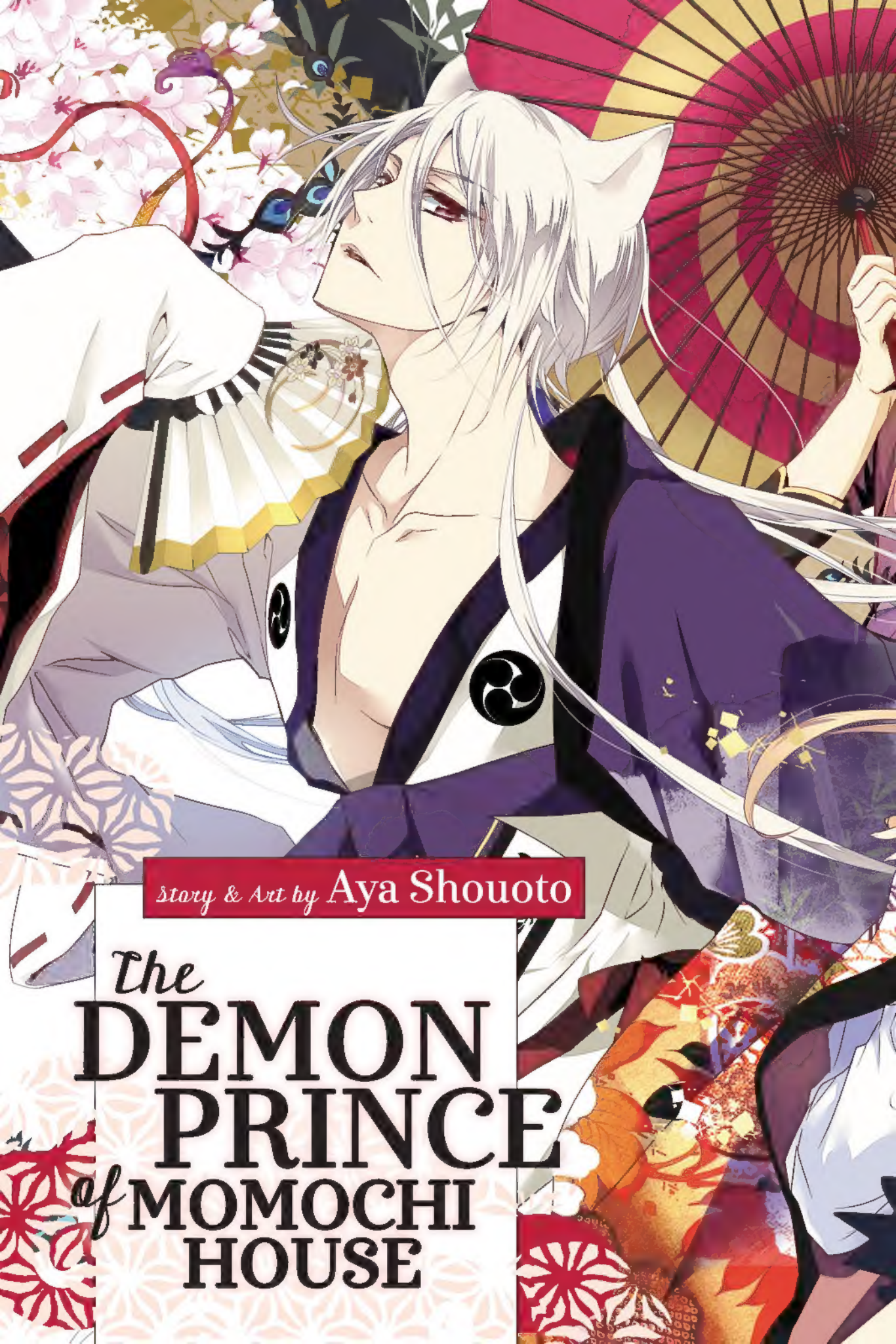
Story & Art by Aya Shouoto

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 1

The Mysterious Residents of Momochi House

CHAPTER
1
The Mysterious Residents
of Momochi House



Story & Art by Aya Shouoto

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

1

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EVERY WOMAN SHOULD BE THE MISTRESS OF HER OWN DOMAIN... OR SO THEY SAY.
SWFF
TMP
THIS PLACE IS DEEP IN THE MOUN-TAINS...
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME I'M LOST.
HELLO!
OH, I SEE SOME-ONE!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE MOMOCHI HOUSE IS?
YOUNG LADY...
...DON'T GO INTO THE FOREST BEYOND THAT PATH.
MOMOCHI HOUSE IS HAUNTED.
IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, YOU'LL BE CURSED BY THE OMAMORI-SAMA.
WHAT ?!
PLEASE WAIT...
I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH NEIGHBORS ALREADY?
MY NAME IS HIMARI MOMOCHI.

SWEET
I GOT A HOUSE FOR MY 16TH BIRTHDAY.
IT'S HUGE...! AND OLD!

THE DAY I TURNED 16, I RECEIVED A DOCUMENT STATING THAT...
...I HAD INHERITED A MANSION KEPT IN TRUST.
Will
KREE
MOGUI-
PARDON MY INTRUSION... OH, I GUESS I SHOULD BE SAYING...
..."I'M HOME."
Right?

...BUT THIS HOUSE IS THE ONE AND ONLY THING...
...LEFT TO ME BY MY REAL FAMILY.
THINGS UP
MY PARENTS MUST'VE BEEN BIG-TIME!
THIS IS INCRED-IBLE...!
TMP
TMP
...SO I'VE NEVER HAD ANY FAMILY TIES.
MY PARENTS DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, AND I HAVE NO OTHER RELATIVES...
THE ORPHANAGE WAS MY HOME FOR 16 YEARS. I LOVED EVERYONE THERE...
I'M GOING TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!

WOOSH
BAM
URK
SO MUCH FOR TAKING GOOD CARE OF THIS PLACE...
VANISHED
WHAT WAS THAT?!
IT WAS HUGE! WAS THAT A GIANT TANUKI? MAYBE A WILD DOG?!
TIPTOE
BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE IT'S OLD. IT'S AS IF SOMEONE TRASHED IT...
WOW... THIS PLACE IS A WRECK.

KOFF
KOFF
SO MUCH DUST...
WHA-?
BAM
IS SOMEONE THERE?
HUH?

FWISH

AOI! PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!

VUP VUP

Um...

AH!

?!

FWISH
AOI! PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!
AH!
Um...
Um...
VUP VUP
?!

B...
BURGLAR ...?
ME?!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS!!
EWK
Will

I'M HIMARI MOMOCHI...
...AND I AM THE LEGAL OWNER OF THIS HOUSE!
IT LOOKS LEGAL ENOUGH.
NOT ONLY DOES IT LOOK LEGAL, IT IS LEGAL.
NOW WHO ARE YOU?
I AM...
...AOI NANAMORI.

BRMP
WE'RE ALREADY ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS?!
...HIMARI.
IT'S VERY NICE TO HAVE YOU HERE...
I-IT'S NICE TO HAVE ME HERE...?
BLUSH
I'm not usually a sucker for gorgeous guys, but
HMPH!
AND THAT'S ISE.
HELLO.
THIS IS YUKARI.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...
...WE'RE SQUATTERS.
!

SQUAT-TERS?!
TRMBL
TRMBL
EASYGOING
ANYWAY... STARTING TODAY THIS IS MY HOUSE, SO...
I'M SUR-PRISED ...
...YOU BELIEVE THAT DODGY WILL IS GENUINE.
YOU'RE THE DODGY ONES!
HEH HEH
ARE YOU STUPID?!
YOU NEVER CONSIDERED IT MIGHT BE FAKE?
WILL
TOSS
WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO SAY.
THIS WILL IS THE ONLY LINK I'VE EVER HAD TO MY FAMILY.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ENOUGH, ISE.
BUT EVEN SO...

HUH?
GWAAH
JUST HOW SHAMELESS CAN YOU BE?!
TH-THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
IF ANYONE SHOULD LEAVE, IT'S YOU THREE!

YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS HOUSE.

...BUT IT'S TROUBLESOME FOR US IF YOU STAY.
THAT MAY BE...
THIS IS MY HOUSE! DIDN'T YOU SEE THE NAME BY THE ENTRANCE? IT'S MOMOCHI!
HOW ABSURD!
I'LL BE THE ONE MAKING THEM LEAVE!
My plan starts now!
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE GORGEOUS DOESN'T MEAN THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.
I'M NOT GIVING UP.
KRRK
KRRK
CHIRP
CHIRP

I'LL MAKE THIS HOUSE SO GIRLY THEY'LL FEEL TOO UNCOM-FORTABLE TO STAY.
HEE HEE HEE
BUT...
THERE ARE HOLES IN THE DOORS, AND THE ENTIRE HOUSE IS IN SHAMBLES.
WOOD-BURNING STOVE
BROOM
CLUTTER
IT'S OBVIOUS BOYS LIVE HERE.
JUST LOOK AT THIS MESS.
CLUTTER
NOT ONLY THAT ...
WHY ISN'T THERE A SINGLE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE IN THIS HOUSE?!
Give me a vacuum cleaner...
THIS IS ROUGH!!

WHY IS HE BREAKING THINGS?!
Is it to annoy me?
AH, THAT WAS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
I'LL SEND HIM TO TEDDY BEAR HELL...
Ignore
AIRK
YOU'RE STILL HERE, HUH?
GOOD MORNING.
WORKING HARD, I SEE.
AH, I'M STARVING.
AT LEAST HE'S WEARING CLOTHES TODAY.
SUEP

VISH
BREAKFAST IS READY, AOI.
THANKS, YUKARI.
HUH?
WHERE'D HE GET THAT FROM?
COME TO THINK OF IT, MOST NORMAL PEOPLE WOULD BE IN SCHOOL OR AT WORK AT THIS HOUR...
GYAH HAH
DROWSY
ARE THEY WHAT YOU'D CALL "NEETS"?
(*Not Employed, Educated, or in Training)
AND...
It's hot!

Hey, after breakfast, let's have some fun!
It's not a big deal.
Are you okay?
...THEY SEEM...
...BONE IDLE.
THEIR MALE BONDING IS MORE LIKE FLIRTING...
THERE.
She'll wreck the place.
...
BAM
KLATT
HUP!

REEL
EEK!
WHOOSH
Okay, what's next?
SWAMBLES
NOT BAD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
HHH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SUFF
YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?
HUH?
AOI NANAMORI...

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ANY APPLIANCES?
DON'T TELL ME THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE ELECTRICITY.
HUH?
Shh...
SNIP
I'M FINE!
WHAT IS UP WITH THIS HOUSE?
YOU'VE GOT LAMPS, SO...
THWIP
WHAT'S THIS?
AH.
THAT'S MY SMARTPHONE.
AAAH!
GO
OM

UM... SORRY I BROKE YOUR THING...
...
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
AOI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU GIVE HIM?!
MY PHONE...
I HOPE IT COVERS EXPLO-SIONS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. LUCKILY I'VE GOT INSURANCE.
...
ARE YOU MAD?
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME AROUND?
HIMARI, I...
IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T WANDER AROUND THE HOUSE TOO MUCH.
HIMARI...
WHAT? YOU WON'T CHANGE MY MIND, YOU KNOW.
OH...
Why are you wearing that thing?
I JUST SWEPT THAT AREA, AND YOUR ROBE IS DRAG-GING DUST ALL OVER IT AGAIN.

WHY?
YOU'LL GET LOST.
THIS HOUSE TENDS TO SWALLOW THINGS UP.
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO SCARE ME!
I HEARD THIS HOUSE WAS HAUNTED BEFORE I CAME HERE.
HAUNTED? YES, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT THAT.
HIMARI, I'M SERIOUS...

I DON'T CARE! HE'S JUST TRYING TO SCARE ME INTO LEAVING.
SO WHAT?!
IF YOU STAY HERE, SOMETHING BAD MIGHT HAPPEN.
BUT...
...AND THEN HE PUTS HIS HANDS ALL OVER ME!
HE'S NICE AND TALKS IN THAT GENTLE VOICE OF HIS...
HIMARI...
CHILLS
IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, YOU'LL BE CURSED BY THE OMAMORI-SAMA.
I WISH I HADN'T REMEMBERED THAT.
NO, NO...
MOMOCHI HOUSE IS HAUNTED.
THIS HOUSE IS HUGE. I CLEANED ONLY A SMALL SECTION OF IT TODAY.
YOU'LL GET LOST.

KLATT KLATT
SHMP
AH...
AH...
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
ZURG
ZURG
KLATT KLATT
ACK!
OVER THERE TOO?!
...
GHOSTS ?!
I WON'T ALLOW THIS.
GHOSTS OR WHATEVER YOU ARE...
KLENCH
GRAB

NO FREE-LOADING!
GYAAH!
SWUK
SWUK
GYAAH!
KLAK
ARE YOU OKAY?! I HEARD SCREAMING...
GYAAH!
SWIP
Eek!
YEEK!

OH!
HUH ...?
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
YOU SENT THE LESSER YOKAI HERE, DIDN'T YOU? YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON.
WHY DO WE NEED TO BE TIED UP TOO, AOI?!
AOI!
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...
MEEK
RWL
RWL

WHAT IS THIS?! THESE STUFFED ANIMALS ARE TALKING!
"AYAKASHI"?
Poff
THEY'RE MYSTERIOUS NONHUMAN BEINGS. THEY'RE ALSO KNOWN AS DEMONS OR SPIRITS.
THEY LIVE IN THIS HOUSE TOO.
DEMONS AND SPIRITS REALLY EXIST?

I'M SORRY THEY TRIED TO SCARE YOU AWAY.
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING ANGRY, BUT CAN YOU FORGIVE THEM?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT. YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO AOI!
You made such a ruckus in our house!
You monster girl!
THESE GUYS HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
I GET IT NOW...
THIS IS WHY THIS PLACE IS SAID TO BE "HAUNTED."
Aoi!

HE WANTED ME TO LEAVE BECAUSE THESE LITTLE GUYS ARE HERE...
VEEN
ARE YOU AN AYAKASHI TOO, AOI?
AOI IS HUMAN.
BY THE WAY, I'M AN AMIZUCHI—A WATER SERPENT.
I'M A SHOUJOU. AN ORANG-UTAN.
BUT AOI IS PRACTICALLY ONE OF US!

We're sorry, Aoi!
UNTIE US ALREADY.
APOLOGIZE TO HIMARI FIRST.

YOU SEEM LIKE...
...ONE BIG FAMILY.

Come on now.

BUT YOU MUST LEAVE.
BLUSH
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.

HIMARI!
THIS MAY BE MY HOUSE...
...BUT IT ISN'T WHERE I BELONG.
I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED.
...I THOUGHT I COULD BE A PART OF THEIR GROUP.
FOR A MOMENT THERE...
TMP
YEAH...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
I'LL LEAVE.
!
I DIDN'T MEAN RIGHT NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

EEK!
WHOOSH
YOU LOOK TASTY.
FWSHH
!
NOT NOW!
YUP
?!
...

HIMARI, OVER HERE!
IS THIS AN AYAKASHI TOO?
RHHM
THE SMELL OF A MO-MOCHI ...
I'M GLAD I CAME BACK.
...
AHH...
GACK
I CAN'T BREATHE...

HIMARI!

SO
OF
SHFF
YOU CAN BREATHE NOW. YOU'LL BE FINE.
I SUCKED IT OUT.
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
HE KISSED ME?!
AOI?
HUFF

GIVE IT BACK.
SHE'S MY PREY
I LET THAT KUMONYUDO ESCAPE ONCE BEFORE.
THERE'S NO TIME...
AOI!
UNTIE US!
THIS MUST BE...
...THE TERRIFYING "OMAMORI-SAMA."
DASH
AOI, LOOK OUT!

YOU MUSTN'T...
...LOOK AT ME.
...
FOO

AOI?!
NOW THAT WE HAVE MET A SECOND TIME...
...YOU WILL NOT GET OFF SO EASILY.

KRUK
KRUK
KRUK
I WARNED YOU.
FWP
ARRGH
GYAAAAR

STOP THIS...
YOUR LIFE IS NOT WORTH BEGGING FOR.
SHOO!
BEGONE!
KYO...
...

AOI...
AOI IS AN AYAKASHI TOO?
...IS THE OMAMORI-SAMA.
!!

I AM NUE. I AM THE PROTECTOR OF THIS HOUSE, WHICH WAS BUILT IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE MATERIAL WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM...
I AM THE RIGHTFUL OWNER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.
I CANNOT LEAVE THIS PLACE.

IT IS YOU WHO MUST GO.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
"THE TERRIFYING CURSE OF THE OMAMORI-SAMA..."
THIS IS A VERY STRANGE HOUSE.
I WANDERED IN HERE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR...
...AND BROKE THE SEAL...
...THE HOUSE CHOSE ME TO BE THE OMAMORI-SAMA.

A HOUSE INHABITED BY SPIRITS AND DEMONS, BUILT ON THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND SPIRITUAL WORLDS...
WHEN THIS HOUSE CHOOSES YOU, IT GRANTS YOU INCREDIBLE POWER...
...AND TRANSFORMS YOU INTO THE NUE...
...THE PROTECTOR OF ITS REALM.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BECOME THE OMAMORI-SAMA.
BUT I ENDED UP BEING CHOSEN INSTEAD.
YES.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN I...

YUKARI ...
I WOULDN'T SAY AOI PITIES YOU EXACTLY...
...BUT WE SUSPECT THIS WILL WAS A TRAP...
...TO LURE YOU HERE.
SHFF
THIS...
Will
THE WILL?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TURN INTO A MONSTER LIKE ME, YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE!
THE BLOOD OF THE RIGHTFUL HEIR RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THIS HOUSE WILL CHOOSE ANOTHER TO TAKE MY PLACE.

...HAVE ACCEPTED MY SITUATION.
I...
BUT... WHAT WILL YOU DO?
AND I HAVE THESE SHIKIGAMI WITH ME. I'LL BE JUST FINE.
SO IT'S NO PROBLEM IF YOU LEAVE.
I SEE...

THUD
KEEL
HIMARI ?!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
TMP
SH

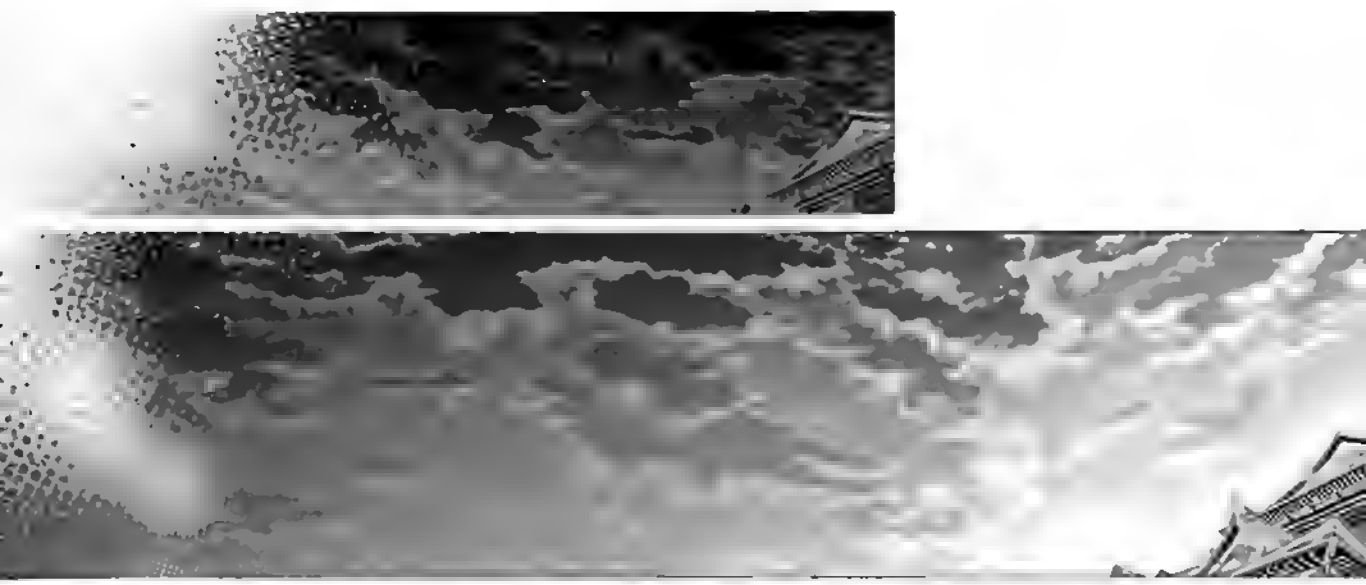
WHY?!
I THOUGHT I SUCKED OUT THE KUMONYUDO'S EVIL ENERGY...
HUFF
H-HF
HIMARI HAS THE BLOOD OF THE MOMOCHI IN HER VEINS.
SHE'S PROBABLY MORE SENSITIVE THAN REGULAR HUMANS.
BUT...
...
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
SHFF
SHFF
SHFF
SHFF

SHFF
SHFF
SHFF
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!
!
I THOUGHT I HAD PROTECTED HER...!

IF I CAN'T SAVE HER...
...THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO KEEP LIVING!
TMP
...YOU'RE LIVING FOR MY SAKE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AOI?
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE...

KLASP
AOI...
ARE YOU LONELY?

IF YOU ARE, THEN I WILL...



KLAK
GOOD MORNING!
...
HIMARI... HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

BUT...
...I REALIZE NOW YOU WERE TRYING TO DO ME A FAVOR BY THROWING ME OUT.
I THINK I WENT INTO SHOCK FOR A BIT AFTER ALL THAT LAST NIGHT.
SLUMP
But I feel refreshed now.
IT WAS SHOCK ?!
THANKS.
THAT WAS, UM...
AND THANKS FOR HOLDING MY HAND ALL NIGHT LONG.

NOW THAT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
...THAT WILL...
...DOES SEEM PRETTY SUSPICIOUS.
BUT I'M NOT WORRIED.
IT COULD BE THAT...
...IT WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME...
...BECAUSE SOMEONE NEEDS MY HELP!

I WON'T LEAVE.

... AND STEP IN...

... I'M CER-TAIN ...

IF I KNOCK ...

THIS IS MY HOUSE.

AS IF TO SAY, "I'M COUNTING ON YOU, HIMARI!"

MOMOCHI HOUSE...

I DON'T MIND LENDING A HELPING HAND.

I DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT...

...BUT THEY'RE FAMILY.

AS IF TO SAY, "I'M COUNTING ON YOU, HIMARI!"
I DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT...
...BUT THEY'RE FAMILY.
I DON'T MIND LENDING A HELPING HAND.
MOMOCHI HOUSE...

I WON'T LEAVE.
THIS IS MY HOUSE.
IF I KNOCK ...
... AND STEP IN...
... I'M CER-TAIN ...

NOW LET'S OPEN THAT DOOR...

Chapter 1 End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 2
ON MY SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, I RECEIVED A WILL THAT INFORMED ME I HAD BECOME THE OWNER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.
THE HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THE BORDER OF THE MATERIAL WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM. IT'S INHABITED BY DEMONS AND SPIRITS, KNOWN AS AYAKASHI.

RWL
MN...
CHIRP
?
THREE ARMS...
AND LIVING AMONG THEM...

KA-THUNK

OW!

AAAH!

...IS A MYSTERIOUS BOY BY THE NAME OF AOI.

CHAPTER 2

Himari Becomes a Landlady

CHAPTER 2

Himari Becomes a Landlady

KA-CHUNK
OW!

Ouch...
UM, I WAS COLD...
OH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!
BOMF
UNBELIEV-ABLE!
THAT'S AN EXCUSE A CHILD WOULD MAKE!
SEVENTEEN... I THINK?
HUH?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?!
YOU CRAWLED INTO A 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S BED BECAUSE YOU WERE COLD?

AOI IS ALWAYS TOUCHING ME.
AND THOUGH IT WAS TO PROTECT ME FROM AN AYAKASHI...
SHOCK
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO DO THOSE THINGS!
IT'S NOT NORMAL!
...HE EVEN KISSED ME.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO THINK ANYTHING OF IT.
GOOD MORNING, AOI, HIMARI.
HOW COULD HE STEAL A KISS FROM ME?!

WOW, IT'S SO PRETTY IN HERE.

THIS IS WHAT MOMOCHI HOUSE USUALLY LOOKS LIKE.
WE ALLOWED THE KUMONYUDO TO TRASH IT IN ORDER TO CHASE YOU OUT.
I-IS THAT TRUE?
YUKARI...
YOU CAN ASK ME ANYTHING ABOUT THIS HOUSE.
HEH
FOR NOW, IT SEEMS AOI HAS ACCEPTED YOU.

"FOR NOW"?
YAWN
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL LEAVE ANY TIME SOON...
...NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.
I AM THE LANDLADY OF MOMOCHI HOUSE!
YES, YOU'RE THE LEGAL OWNER.
BALK
BUT I'M ITS PROTECTOR.
THAT'S RIGHT...

...IS THE NUE REALLY THE SAME AS AOI?
THERE'S JUST SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM.
AOI IS THE OMAMORI-SAMA WHO GUARDS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS.
HE HAS THE EARS OF A CAT, THE WINGS OF A BIRD, AND THE TAIL OF A FOX.
THE NUE IS A STRANGE AYAKASHI...
BUT...
SO ANYWAY...

I REALLY THINK I SHOULD COLLECT RENT.
BLUNT
WHAT? YOU WEREN'T JOKING?
LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR.
I AM THE LANDLADY! YOU THREE ARE FREELOADERS!
Even 100 yen is fine with me!
I NEED TO MAKE OUR RELA-TIONSHIP CLEAR.
IF I CAN'T SAVE HER...
...THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO KEEP LIVING!
OTHER-WISE I'LL GET WEIRD THOUGHTS ABOUT HIM.
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?!

I CAN'T LIVE WITH A 17-YEAR-OLD BOY!
He really is a NEET...
DIRECT
I HAVE NO MONEY.
YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB? WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
SCHOOL? WHAT ABOUT YOU, HIMARI?
I PLAN ON FINDING A SCHOOL TO TRANSFER TO ONCE I'VE SETTLED IN.
YOU'RE 17, SO YOU SHOULD BE IN HIGH SCHOOL TOO, RIGHT?
THERE ARE THINGS I MUST DO HERE.
PROTECTING THIS HOUSE, RIGHT?
IS IT REALLY SOMETHING THAT NEEDS YOUR CONSTANT ATTENTION?
UH-HUH...

AOI GETTING A JOB? THAT'D NEVER HAPPEN.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY GETTING A PART-TIME JOB?
BEING COOPED UP IN THIS HOUSE ALL THE TIME HAS MADE YOU...
...WEIRD!
ZA RK
UH...
SINCE YOU WANT IT THAT BADLY, HERE.
MY RENT.
EH?
GYA HA HA
Oh, that was valuable...
YEEEK!
HHM
GET OUT!
YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?! GET OUT!

WOOSH
W-WHAT'S THIS?!
FWAA

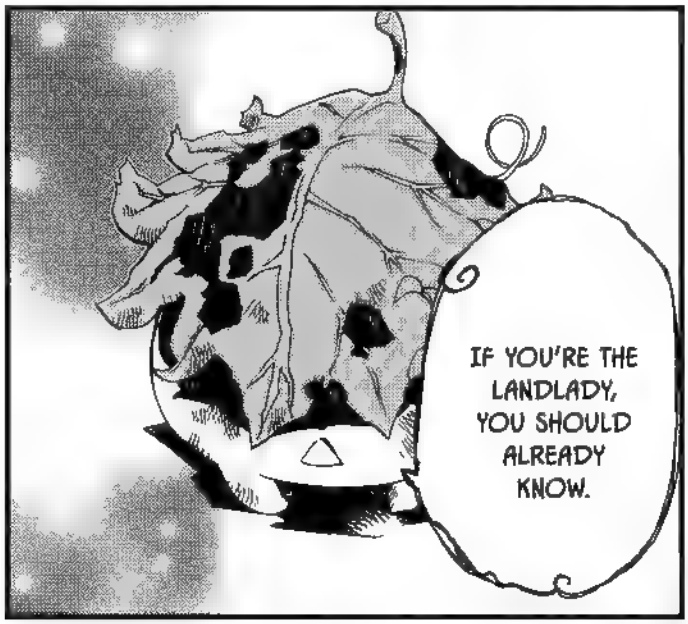
TOSS
ARGH!
EH?
HUH? WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
THE HOUSE RESPONDED TO HER COMMAND TO THROW HIM OUT.

SILENCE
MOVE!
MOVE...
REALLY?
DO I REALLY HAVE SUCH A SPECIAL POWER?!
I SEE... I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE HIMARI IS THE HEIR.
BLUSH
GEHHEHHEH
GET OUT!
POINK
TROMP
NOT REALLY... TOSSING ME OUTSIDE IS NOTHING SPECIAL.
BUT IT PROVES THE HOUSE RECOGNIZES ME AS THE LANDLADY.
"GET OUT" IS THE COMMAND THAT WORKS, IT SEEMS.
Hm.

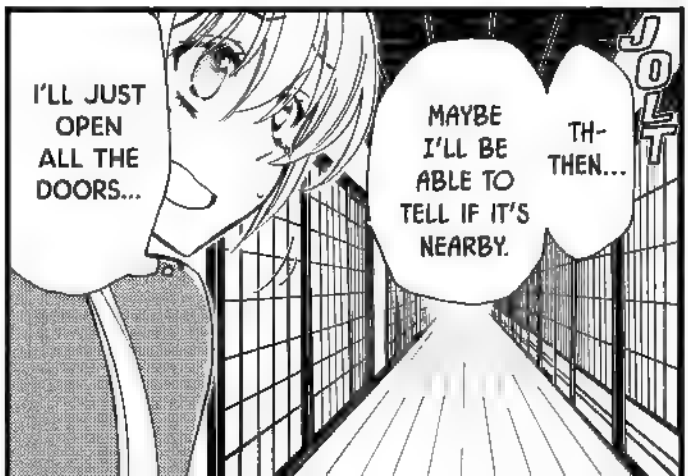
GET OUT!
Why you—!
YUKARI CLEANED THE ENTIRE HOUSE.
IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT FOR ME TO DO?
STILL...
THERE'S NOT MUCH USE FOR A POWER LIKE THIS.
CAN I HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING, YUKARI?
NO, THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.
GRIN
WHY DON'T YOU TRY GETTING A PART-TIME JOB?
URK

I'M A FAILURE AS A LAND-LADY.
SIGH
YUKARI'S SMILE HOLDS MORE POWER THAN MY LITTLE "GET OUT!"
I'M A PIG'S EAR...
THE EXPRESSION YOU WANT IS "AT A LOOSE END."
!
BLUSH
I-I KNEW THAT...
HUH? IS THIS ONE OF THE LESSER YOKAI?
SHMP
!
Y-YES, I AM.
YOU'RE THE LANDLADY, RIGHT?
I WANTED TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.
MY TREASURE IS SOMEWHERE IN MOMOCHI HOUSE.
PLEASE FIND IT SO I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU AS RENT.

I HAVE A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
OKAY! JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
!


IF YOU'RE THE LANDLADY, YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW.

WHAT IS THIS TREASURE, ANYWAY?
I CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS GIANT HOUSE TOO!


I'LL JUST OPEN ALL THE DOORS...
MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL IF IT'S NEARBY.
TH-THEN...
JOLT

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
YOU CAN'T FIND IT...
URK
AH?!
HUH? THIS IS A ROOM?
KLAK
BOOM
A-ALL RIGHT, NEXT ROOM!
SOOF
EEEK!

BAM
THAT IS A DEMON GATE. IN THERE IS AYAKASHI TERRITORY.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR FUN, IT'S NOT SAFE TO EXPLORE THIS HOUSE.
HE WAS WATCHING ME?!
HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH?

I...
I WASN'T DOING IT FOR FUN. THAT LITTLE GUY ASKED ME FOR HELP...
OH... HE'S GONE...
WHEN AOI PUTS IT LIKE THAT, I FEEL LIKE I AM JUST MESSING AROUND.
I CAN'T STAND IT.
KLAK
HIMARI... ARE YOU AWAKE?
AOI?
PSST

YUKARI?
HOW IS SHE?
SHE'S SOUND ASLEEP. SHE'LL BE FINE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE PUT UP A BARRIER INSIDE THE HOUSE.
...
MAYBE HE'S GOING TO LECTURE ME...
I'll pretend to be asleep.
AOI...
SHFF
EVERY-THING IS READY.
I JUST TOLD HER SHE COULD STAY.
I WOULDN'T WANT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO HER.
IT'S FOR HER SAKE, ISN'T IT?
I DON'T WANT YOU DOING THIS TOO OFTEN. YOU'LL WEAR YOURSELF OUT.

AGAIN IT'S FOR MY SAKE...
IT'S TRUE.
I JUST PICKED UP AND CAME TO THIS HOUSE.
I'M A USELESS 16-YEAR-OLD.
IS IT THIS WAY?
IT'S NOT AS IF LEARNING MORE ABOUT AOI OR THIS HOUSE WILL HELP IN ANY WAY.
AH.
BUT...
THIS SH

I STILL WANT TO KNOW.

AOI...

I'M FINE!

HOPE

I STILL WANT TO KNOW.

HUFF
HUFF
AOI...
I'M FINE!
OH

ARE YOU OKAY, AOI?!
HIMARI ...
AH... SORRY ...
CAN YOU WAIT WHILE I GET SOME CLOTHES ON?
SHIC
THAT STRANGE ROBE... DO YOU WEAR IT SO YOU CAN COVER YOURSELF UP QUICKLY?

...WOULD PROTECT ME.
YUKARI SAID ITS POWER...
YEAH, I GUESS SO. I FOUND IT IN THE HOUSE.
PHOO
...
YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED.
NO, I'M USED TO THIS.
THAT ASIDE...
THE DEMON POWER BEYOND THIS POINT IS DANGEROUS. I SEALED IT OFF.
YOU MUSTN'T WANDER AROUND LIKE YOU DID TODAY.
...

I'M REALLY SORRY FOR CAUSING SO MUCH TROUBLE.
BUT...
...I WASN'T MESSING AROUND!
I WANT TO KNOW...
...WHAT EXACTLY THIS HOUSE IS...
...AND WHAT YOU DO.
TELL ME.

SHE
SURE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
I KEPT QUIET FOR YOUR SAKE, BUT IT ONLY MADE YOU WORRY MORE.
I'M SORRY.

IT'S STILL ME. I HAVEN'T BEEN POSSESSED BY ANYTHING.
I-I SEE.
THEN...
...
WHEN YOU'RE THE NUE, YOU'RE STILL AOI, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
...
YEAH.
NOW I CAN SWITCH BETWEEN FORMS AT WILL.
...CAN YOU TRANSFORM ANY TIME YOU LIKE?
BUT I DON'T GET PAID FOR IT, SO I HAVE NO MONEY FOR RENT.
I RATHER LIKE IT.
COOL, HUH? I CAN SEAL DEMONS.

NEXT QUES-TION...
WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID THERE'D BE NO REASON FOR YOU TO KEEP LIVING...
...IF YOU COULDN'T SAVE ME?
UM...
DID I SAY THAT?
I'M BEGIN-NING TO REALIZE ...

...THAT AOI CAN LIE.
AOI-
THUSH
HOW COULD YOU TRAP ME IN THERE? YOU'RE A HORRIBLE LANDLADY.
GRAB
IT GOT THROUGH MY BARRIER?
THERE'S SOMETHING HERE!

DID I FAIL?
NO, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...
AOI!
ONLY HARMLESS AYAKASHI CAN PASS THROUGH YOUR BARRIER.
RIGHT NOW I SENSE SOMETHING OMINOUS BUT NOT EVIL.
MEAN
MEAN
MEAN
THAT AYAKASHI SAID "LAND-LADY."
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS—
NO!

MEAN...
MEAN...
MEAN...
...HE'LL PLACE A CURSE ON THE HOUSE.
IF YOU SLAY HIM HERE...
IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA.
I'LL HAVE TO CONSUME HIM.
I HAVE NO CHOICE.
BUT WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE HIM.

WAIT!
?
SAY, ARE YOU UPSET BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND YOUR TREASURE?
THAT AYAKASHI IS TALKING ABOUT ME, THE LANDLADY.
LET ME TALK TO HIM.
I'M SORRY!
I PROMISED TO FIND IT! SO PLEASE TURN BACK TO NORMAL!

IF WE DON'T, HE'LL TURN INTO SOMETHING WORSE.
THE ONLY OPTION NOW IS TO SEAL HIM AWAY.
THE DARK AURA SURROUNDING HIM HAS GROWN SO LARGE THAT HE CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING.
THAT WON'T WORK, HIMARI.
TUG
OH!
WAIT!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO THROW HIM OUT...
...SO DON'T DO ANYTHING YET.
I DON'T WANT AOI TO OVEREXERT HIMSELF ANYMORE.
INHALE

GET OUT!
GET OUT!
PLEASE WORK...
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.
PLEASE WORK!
I WON'T LET HIM SUFFER MORE BY DEVOURING THIS DEMON!
AOI IS WORN OUT.
GET OUT!
GET OUT!
GET OUT!

I'LL FIND SOMETHING I CAN DO.
TO PROTECT THIS HOUSE...
TO PROTECT THOSE BY MY SIDE...
SUFF
...IN YOUR COM-MAND...
HAVE CONVIC-TION...

GRAAAH...!
GET OUT!
I KNOW I CAN DO THIS!

AAH...
I SEE...
THIS IS HIS TRUE FORM.
YOU'RE AMAZING, HIMARI.

SHFF
OH...!
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T SWALLOW HIM UP.
YOU MUSTN'T LOOK AT ME.

I CAN'T TURN MY EYES AWAY FROM HIM.
HHHHH
...YOUR SIN TO DARKNESS AND YOUR DARKNESS TO OBLIVION...
I RETURN...

I'M NOT AFRAID.
I FIND HIM...
...INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU EXIST IN THIS WORLD...
WHO ARE YOU REALLY...
...AOI?

LOOK, I CLEANED HIM UP!
POINK

A PIG...
A GOLDEN PIG...
IT'S A PIG, ISN'T IT?
HE LOOKS LIKE A PIGGY BANK.

HE'S A KANEDAMA.
HE'S AN AYAKASHI THAT BRINGS PROSPERITY TO THE HOUSE IN WHICH HE DWELLS.
BECAUSE HE'S A GOOD AYAKASHI TO START WITH, HE COULD PASS THROUGH MY BARRIER.
IF WE HAD SLAIN HIM OR DRIVEN HIM AWAY, HE'D BE A PROBLEM.
THANKFULLY YOU WERE ABLE TO FORCE THE DARK AURA AROUND HIM OUTSIDE.
THAT WAS LUCKY ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I HAVE WANDERED AROUND THIS HOUSE FOR AGES WITHOUT MEETING ITS OWNER.
BUT I BECAME TAINTED AND TURNED INTO THAT DEMON.
I SEE...
HE HIMSELF WAS THE TREASURE.
THERE-FORE...

...I WANT TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION TO THIS HOUSEHOLD.
AC-CORDING TO LEGEND ...
...HE BRINGS GOLD TO YOUR HOUSE.
GOLD ?!
WHOA, THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FAIRYTALE.
KEEN
KEEN
VEEN
SHOOM

Chapter 2/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 3

Falling Cherry Blossoms Stir Up a Storm of Love?!

ZZZZ
YUP
CHIRP
IT'S MORNING.
HE DID IT AGAIN.
BLUSH
AOI!

WHAT'S ODD IS THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO GET PAST MY BARRICADE!
SORRY.
OH...
THAT'S ODD. I THOUGHT I SLEPT IN MY OWN BED.
KLATT
THIS SIDE OPENS TOO.
ARGH!
Darn this Japanese house!
B-BMP
I SLEEP WELL IN HERE.
YOU'RE SO WARM, HIMARI.

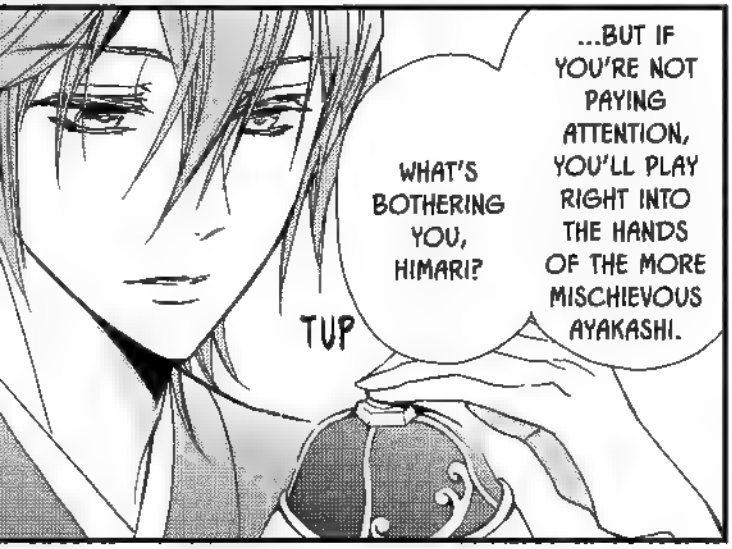
GRA
H
YOU'RE SHAME-LESS!
!!
HALT
AH! SORRY, SORRY...
0
?
SWIP
IF YOU'RE TIRED, SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BED.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
AOI LOOKS PALE.
EVER SINCE I ARRIVED AT MOMOCHI HOUSE LAST WEEK...
...AOI HAS BEEN BUSY WITH WORK.

THIS PLACE WAS BUILT ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE HUMAN WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM.
THIS IS MOMOCHI HOUSE.
AYAKASHI WANDER IN AND CROSS THE BORDER, CAUSING TROUBLE IN THE HUMAN WORLD...
IT'S AOI'S JOB TO SEAL THEM AWAY.
IT'S HIS DUTY AS THE OMAMORI-SAMA OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.
MOMOCHI HOUSE...
...SO I'LL WATCH FROM A DISTANCE.
THEY'LL PROBABLY TELL ME I'M IN THE WAY...

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS PLACE?
AOI...
IT'S FOR HER SAKE, ISN'T IT?
I JUST TOLD HER SHE COULD STAY.
...DOES SO MUCH EVERY DAY. IS HE WEARING HIMSELF OUT...

PHOO
HIMARI...
...THAT'S DANGER-OUS.
SHUF
SHUF
SHUF

...FOR MY SAKE?


WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, HIMARI?
TUP
...BUT IF YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION, YOU'LL PLAY RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE MORE MISCHIEVOUS AYAKASHI.

GACK!!
MANY OF THE TOOLS IN MOMOCHI HOUSE ARE POSSESSED BY AYAKASHI.
I DON'T MIND IF YOU WANT TO HELP...

UM...
IT'S ABOUT AOI.

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEEN INDOORS FOR SO LONG. IT'S GOT TO BE UNHEALTHY.
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S...
...A LITTLE TOO INNOCENT FOR HIS AGE?
HE'LL DO THINGS LIKE CLIMB INTO MY BED, OR TOUCH AND KISS ME LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
SAY, WILL YOU BE GOING TO SCHOOL SOON?

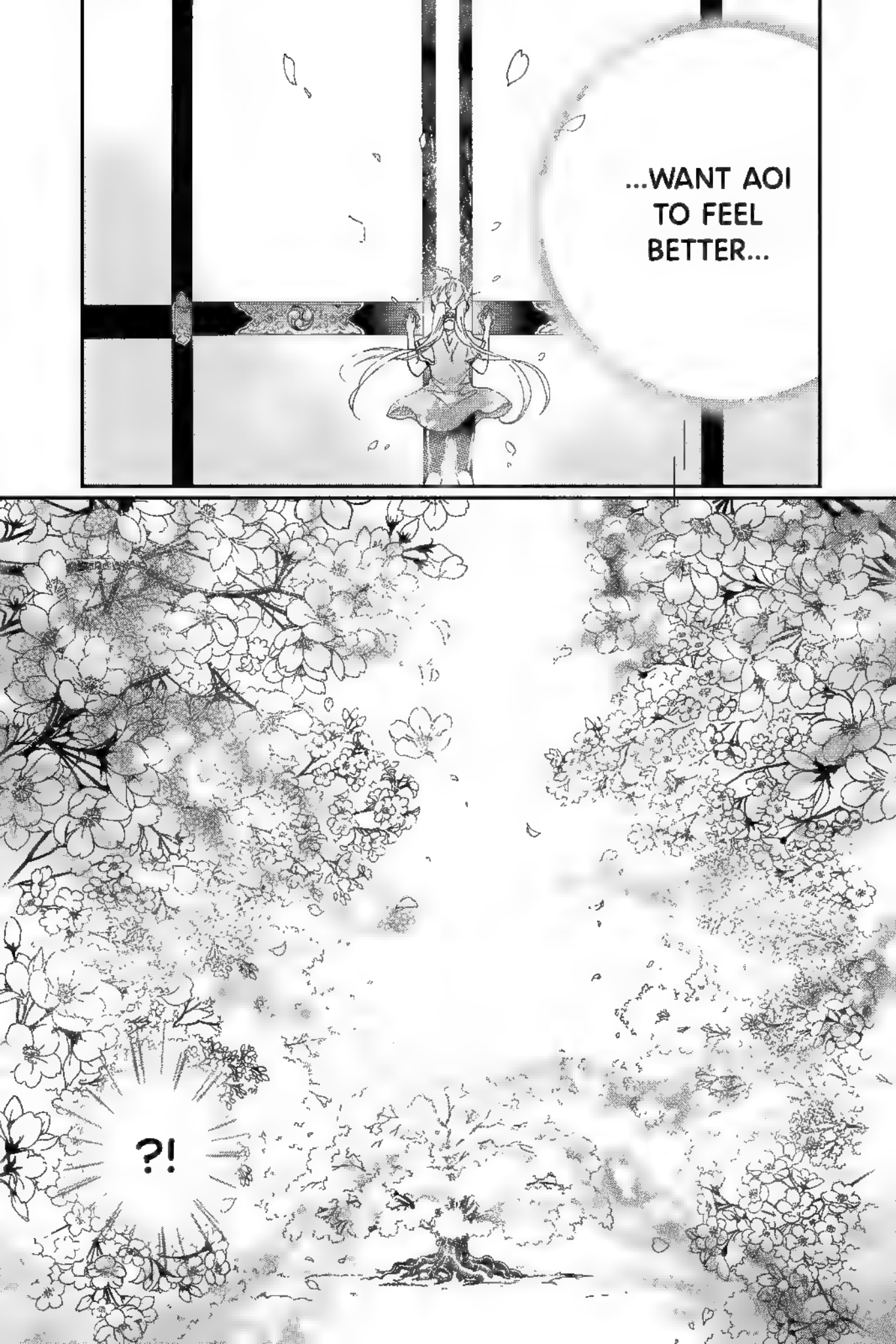
HUH?
IT'S EXAM TIME RIGHT NOW, SO I PLAN TO GO ONCE THAT'S OVER.
IT WOULD BE NICE...
...IF AOI COULD GO TO SCHOOL TOO.

BLUSH
HUH?!
YOU TALK ABOUT AOI A LOT, DON'T YOU?
HEH
THAT'S BECAUSE HE DOES STRANGE THINGS–
AOI ISN'T ALWAYS ON MY MIND...
...BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS HOUSE OR AOI.
BUT...
...THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY-THING.
I CAN'T REALLY BRING IT UP.
IF HE'S EXHAUSTED FROM DOING THINGS FOR ME...
...I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM IN RETURN.
WAFT

A FLOWER PETAL IN THE HOUSE?
IT CAME FROM FARTHER IN?
COME HERE...
COME HERE...
IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T WANDER AROUND THE HOUSE TOO MUCH.

COME HERE...
...AOI WILL FEEL BETTER.
THE FRUIT OF THE ANCIENT CHERRY TREE IS A CURE-ALL....
YOU'LL GET LOST.
SWISH
BUT IF I CAN FIND THAT...
COME THIS WAY...
COME...
KLAK
I...


...WANT AOI TO FEEL BETTER...
?!

SWFF
THIS HOUSE IS A MYSTERY.
SWF
COME HERE.
I'M STILL INSIDE THE HOUSE.
I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND A FIELD OF CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES...
SWFF
THIS IS THE TREE...

THE FRUIT OF THE ANCIENT CHERRY TREE IS A CURE-ALL.
ALL YOUR AILMENTS WILL DISAPPEAR AFTER ONE BITE...
WITH THIS...
...AOI WILL...
SHFF
YOU TOOK IT...
YOU TOOK IT...
AND IN EX-CHANGE ...
OH
KRSH
PLUK

HIMARI!

...I'LL TAKE YOUR SOUL!

AAAAH!

...I'LL TAKE YOUR SOUL!
HIMARI!
AAAAH!

A...
AOI!
I FOUND YOU.
ARE YOU OKAY?
A CHERRY TREE?
WHY IS IT GROWING IN HERE?
IT'S NOT WHAT IT SEEMS.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
KREK
KREK
KREK

IT'S AN AYAKASHI.
RHHM
GIVE IT TO ME...
GIVE ME THE SOUL OF THE MOMOCHI!
RHHM
TUP

AOI!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
IT'S HARDER FOR HIM BECAUSE I'M HERE.
KRUK
KRUK
KRUK
AOI!
IT'S BIG, WHICH MAKES IT HARDER

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO HIM.
IT'S MY OWN FAULT THIS HAPPENED.
DON'T LET GO.

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.
SIFF
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
YOU MUSTN'T LOOK AT ME.

COME FORTH, MY SHIKIGAMI!
THE NUE...

YUKARI THE MIZUCHI...
...AND ISE THE SHOUJOU...
I COMMAND YOU TO PROTECT
.. AND CAPTURE THAT
YES, MASTER
VISH

WE DON'T NEED TO TRANSFORM TO FIGHT A TREE MONSTER!
DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD.
YOU USED FAUX FLOWERS TO DECEIVE HUMAN HEARTS...

GRAAH
SCATTER.

I HEARD ITS VOICE IN MY HEAD, AND THINGS STARTED TO GO BLANK...
REEL
I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN HIMARI IS INVOLVED.
THE BLOOD OF THE MOMOCHI RUNS IN YOUR VEINS. IT WANTED TO DEVOUR YOU TO GAIN IMMENSE POWER.
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT WOULD USE ITS POWER OF SUGGESTION TO LURE HER HERE.
IT'S USUALLY SUCH A QUIET OLD TREE...
AOI!

I'M REALLY SORRY!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING...
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING I COULD DO FOR YOU.
...AND I WANTED TO HELP YOU FEEL BETTER.
BUT...
I'M IN OVER MY HEAD.

HIMARI...
HUG

KNOWING YOU DID THAT FOR ME...
...MAKES ME SO VERY HAPPY.
B-BUT ALL I DID WAS CAUSE TROUBLE.
GRIP

DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
I'M FINE.
IF ANY-THING...
...SEEING YOU SMILE...
...MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
SO...

SMILE.
THAT'S SILLY–

IS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE?
WILL SOMETHING THAT EASY...
...MAKE YOU SMILE TOO...
...AOI?

IT'S ALMOST SUMMER.
THAT'S RIGHT...
WHEN I GOT THIS HOUSE, I THOUGHT I WOULD BE LIVING HERE...
...ALL ON MY OWN.
THERE'S SO MUCH EXCITEMENT EVERY DAY...
...
SHE
ZZZ

HEY...
WELL, I'LL LEAVE THEM BE.

JOLT
BLINK
HA
O
O
O

HEY...
WAKE UP.
MM...
THERE MIGHT BE LATE-BLOOMING CHERRY BLOSSOMS SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
LET'S GO LOOK FOR THEM...
...AOI.
NO MATTER WHAT...

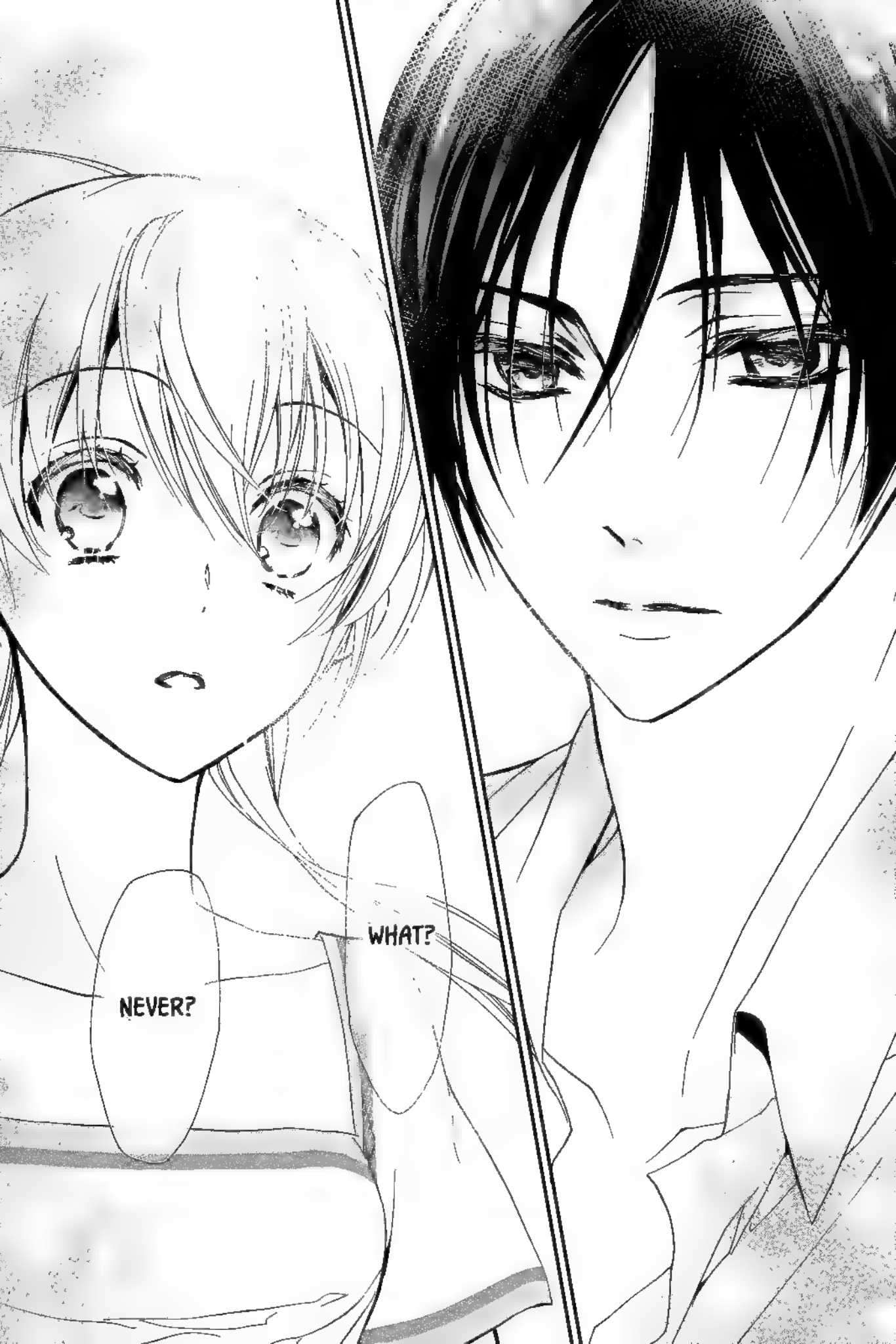
...I WANT TO GO FOR IT.
COME ON.
...IF I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE...
I SIMPLY...
...CAN'T STOP...
...THINKING ABOUT YOU.
THAT WAY...

YOU SHOULD GO OUTSIDE TOO.
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY INDOORS ALL THE TIME.
...
HIMARI...
IT'S BEYOND THE WALL... OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.
HIMARI...
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO SEE WITH YOU.
HIMARI.

KR
EK

TMP
AOI...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HIMARI...

I...
...CAN'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE.


WHAT?
NEVER?

Chapter 3/End

■ What did you think of *The Demon Prince of Momochi House*? When I was little, I'd feel lonely when I was home alone. I was afraid of the dark. I couldn't go to the bathroom alone. I'd always look behind me when I walked home. And mundane noises would make me imagine all kinds of things. Those were the things I was thinking about as I wrote this story.
Please continue to follow the adventures of Himari, Aoi, and this mysterious house!

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

Hello, I'm Aya Shouoto. This is my first "Japanese" style series! I'm a little apprehensive about how I'll do in putting to paper my secret love of things Japanese... But I'm going to do my very best!

-Aya Shouoto

Aya Shouoto was born on December 25. Her hobbies are traveling, staying at hotels, sewing and daydreaming. She currently lives in Tokyo and enjoys listening to J-pop anime theme songs while she works.

The Demon Prince of Momochi House

Volume 1
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